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September 10, 1991

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
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Dear Harold:

I received a copy of your letter to Paul today. Harold, you are not the only one who wishes I had called you (or written to you) before I wrote that letter in June. When Paul attacked me, it was not for the same reasons you give in your letter (not that your letter is an attack of any kind). I wrote a response to Paul on July 13th and am enclosing a copy of that letter. One of the letters of "criticism" I received mentioned that the writer thought you and I were friends. I was almost certain that Paul had received a copy of that letter, from things he said in his letter to me. That was my reason for trying to set the record straight (in the July 13th letter) where you and I are concerned.

Your long letter to Paul is excellent! You have summed up the researchers' "case" exactly -- beginning with Jim Garrison's performance. I realize that my June 22nd letter appears to be a defense of Garrison and perhaps there was a bit of "defense" in the letter. My "defense" was because of the numerous pages we received under FOIA in 1976 reciting the unbelievable efforts the CIA exerted to discredit Garrison and all the JFK researchers and writers. The concerted efforts of the CIA were infuriating to me. It would have been exactly the same if Garrison had pursued the many legitimate leads you, Vince Salandria, Arch Kimbrough and people like you, gave to Jim's office, and if he had been successful in putting the true facts before the world. It is my belief that the CIA would have put forth the same efforts. There are documents in the CIA's material attacking you, Penn Jones, Jr., Mark Lane, and every other researcher, writer and critic.

As far as Stone's movie goes, I have not seen any copy of the script. I do have a slim chance of getting the final version from a friend of Walter Mathau (who played Russell Long in the movie). I would really like to see it because they sent a number of the actors and actresses to me for copies of the documents and testimony in the Warren Commission's volumes pertaining to the characters they were playing. Those poor people told me that Stone changed the script from one minute to the next.

An interesting sidelight -- Edgar Eugene Bradley calls me frequently. He told me early this year that some time ago he and Connie were traveling by car from California to Florida where one of their sons is a minister. Shortly before they had planned that trip, Gene called Garrison from California and asked him why he had accused him of complicity

in the assassination. Garrison told him that his office had misled him and he was very sorry the mistake had occurred. Garrison invited him to visit him if he were ever in New Orleans.

Within a few months, Gene and Connie were passing through New Orleans and Gene called Jim. Jim invited them to lunch and took them to a lovely place where the food, service and atmosphere were beyond anything Gene and Connie had ever experienced. During the lunch, Gene remarked that he had been trying to obtain a copy of Jim's latest book but couldn't find it. He asked for the exact title. Jim told him he would be happy to give him a copy and would autograph it to Gene. He asked them to come back to his office so he could present him with the book. When Gene saw the book, he said, "'On The Trail of the Assassins' -- that's a catchy title." Jim said, "Oliver Stone gave the book that name." Of course, Gene Bradley did not get the significance of that statement!

Jim almost begged them to stay over another night (Friday night) and he would like to talk to Gene again. Jim said, "You are one of the most interesting men I've ever met. I just wish I had met you before my staff persuaded me to charge you." (Have you ever spent any time with Edgar Eugene Bradley?) Gene was really elated but explained that they had a very limited income and were traveling cheaply by avoiding the big cities. They would drive on to some small town and stay in a cheap motel. Jim Garrison "put them up" in a lovely hotel and took them to a posh private club for lunch on Saturday. Needless to say, Eugene Bradley now thinks Jim Garrison is a superior human being and he blames all those on Jim's staff for the problems he experienced.

I am glad to learn that Lil is somewhat better. The fact that you have had eye problems is most distressing. If I were unable to read constantly, I would almost as soon be dead (not quite -- but close). My children, grandchildren and great grandchildren would just have to read to me.

Buck is doing better than I am. I have not worked for some time now. My granddaughter in Austin is still taking care of him. I hope to return to the office in another week or so. However, I plan to retire next year. I wish I could make it until I'm 70 (next year) but I may not make it.

Love to you and Lil,

Mary

Mary

/mf
Enclosure